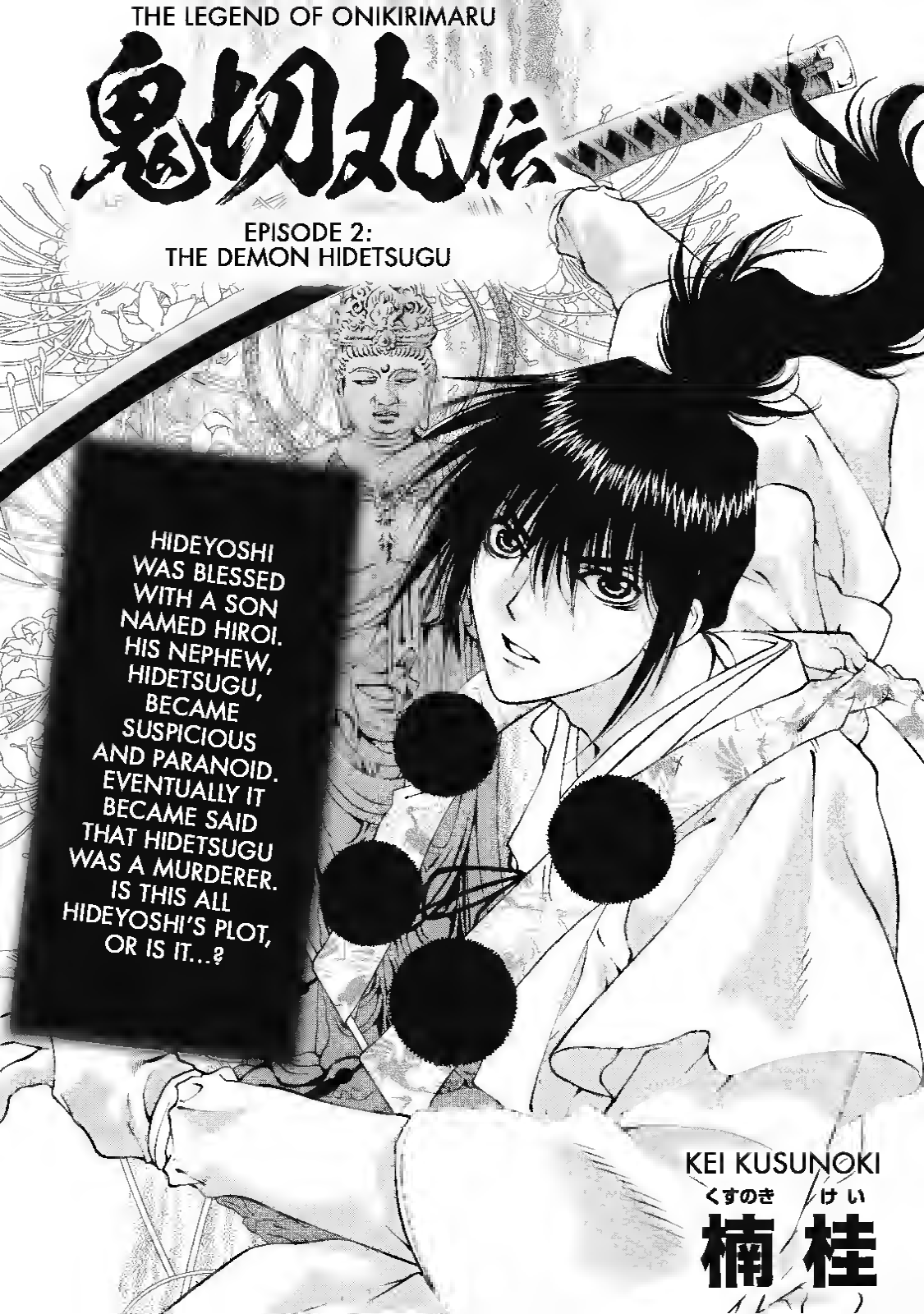
THE LEGEND OF ONIKIRIMARU

鬼切丸伝

EPISODE 2: THE DEMON HIDETSUGU


HIDEYOSHI WAS BLESSED WITH A SON NAMED HIROI. HIS NEPHEW, HIDETSUGU, BECAME SUSPICIOUS AND PARANOID. EVENTUALLY IT BECAME SAID THAT HIDETSUGU WAS A MURDERER. IS THIS ALL HIDEYOSHI'S PLOT, OR IS IT...?

KEI KUSUNOKI
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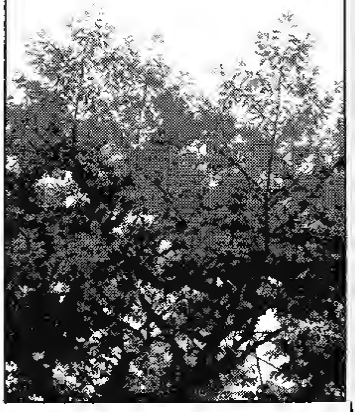
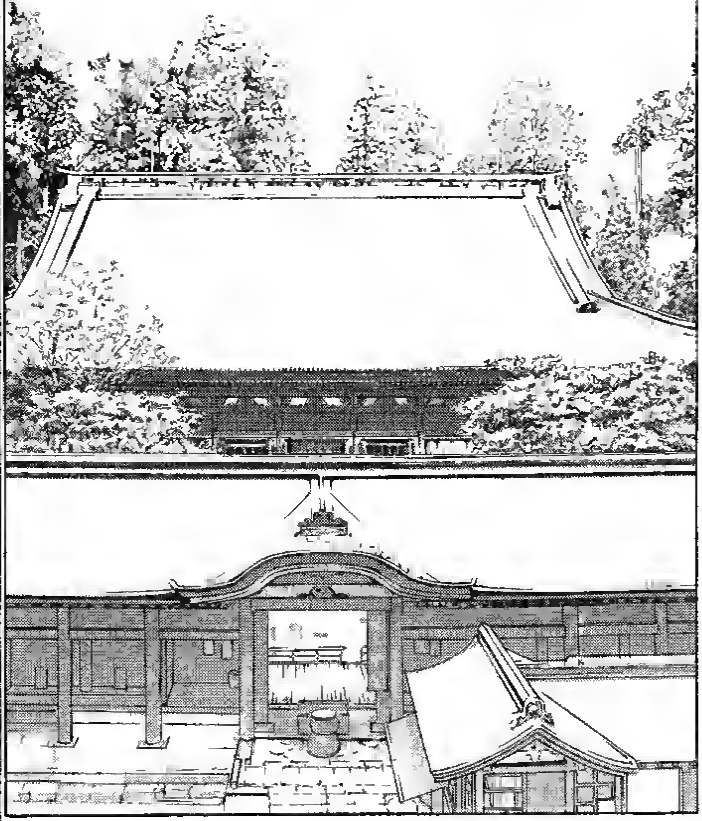
AFTER THIS, IT BECAME A HOLY GROUND WHERE KILLING, AND EVEN HUNTING, WAS FORBIDDEN.

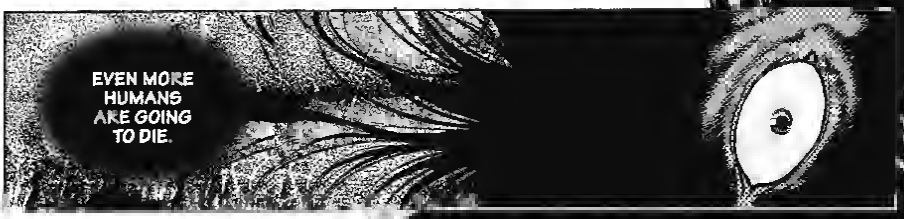


ODA NOBUNAGA DESTROYED THE TEMPLES OF MT. HIEI IN THE 2ND YEAR OF THE GENKI ERA (1571).

PERMISSION TO REBUILD THEM WAS GRANTED BY TOYOTOMI HIDEYOSHI 13 YEARS LATER, IN THE 12TH YEAR OF THE TENSHOU ERA (1584).

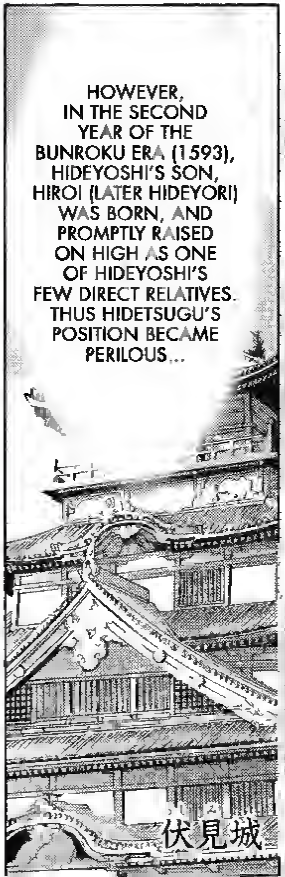


RUSTLE
A DEMON...
A DEMON HAS APPEARED.
IT'S TRYING TO SLAY YOUR RELATIVES.



IN THE 19TH YEAR OF THE TENSHOU ERA (1591), TOYOTOMI HIDEYOSHI'S HEIR, TSURUMATSU, PERISHED. HIS NEPHEW, HIDETSUGU, WAS ADOPTED AND APPOINTED IMPERIAL ADVISER, AND GIVEN THE FAMILY NAME OF TOYOTOMI.

HOWEVER, IN THE SECOND YEAR OF THE BUNROKU ERA (1593), HIDEYOSHI'S SON, HIROI (LATER HIDEYORI) WAS BORN, AND PROMPTLY RAISED ON HIGH AS ONE OF HIDEYOSHI'S FEW DIRECT RELATIVES. THUS HIDETSUGU'S POSITION BECAME PERILOUS...



BUNROKU, YEAR 4 (1595)
LORD TOYOTOMI HIDEYOSHI
SO, WILL YOU DO IT, HIDETSUGU?
WILL YOU ATTACK KOREA? IF YOU WIN GLORY FOR YOURSELF, I WILL REWARD YOU GREATLY.
IS MY UNCLE TRYING TO DRIVE ME FROM THIS COUNTRY?
ER, IT'S JUST THAT... I'VE STILL GOT MY ROLE AS IMPERIAL ADVISER...
WELL, SIR...
I SEE.

MY UNCLE HAS CHANGED... THE WAY HE'S LOOKED AT ME SINCE HIROI WAS BORN...
OH, YOU'RE SO SILLY, MY LORD...
COME ON, HIROI, COME ON...
HA HA
HA HA

I'VE BEEN HIS ADOPTED SON FOR TEN YEARS. IS THAT ANY WAY FOR A MAN TO LOOK AT HIS NEPHEW?
THE WAY HIS EYES ARE FILLED WITH BLOODLUST!
BECAUSE HE WANTS TO KILL ME!
NO, NO, LORD HIDETSUGU. YOU MUST HAVE FAITH IN OUR MASTER!
HE PROMISED THAT AFTER HE BETROTHED PRINCESS SENHIME TO HIROI, HE WOULD TRANSFER POWER TO YOU. YOU ACCEPTED THAT!

THAT'S WHY HE TURNS INTO A DEMON EVERY NIGHT AND TRIES TO KILL ME!
JURAKUTEI
ROOOAAAR
CURSED HIDETSUGU..
WHERE ARE YOU?

H-HE'S BACK! HE'S BACK AGAIN TONIGHT!
MY UNCLE HAS COME TO KILL ME!
DWOOOM

HE WANTS TO KILL HIS OWN NEPHEW! JUST LIKE A DEMON!
WHERE ARE YOU... HATED HIDETSUGU?!
IS THAT WHERE YOU ARE?

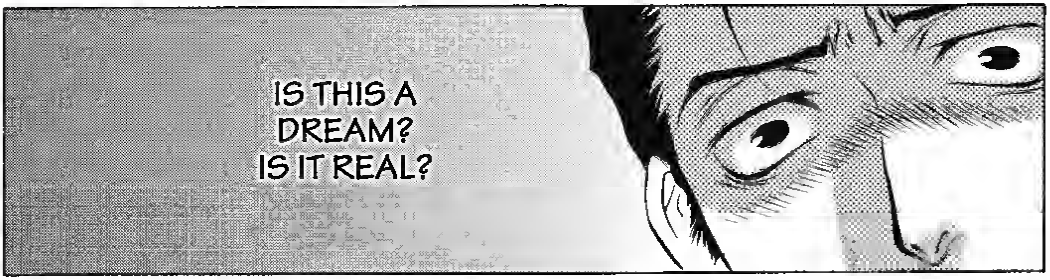
YOU'RE IN THE WAY! IF ONLY IT WEREN'T FOR YOU--!!
BAM

AAAAAAAAAAH!

SHRAK

HIDE-
TSUGU.

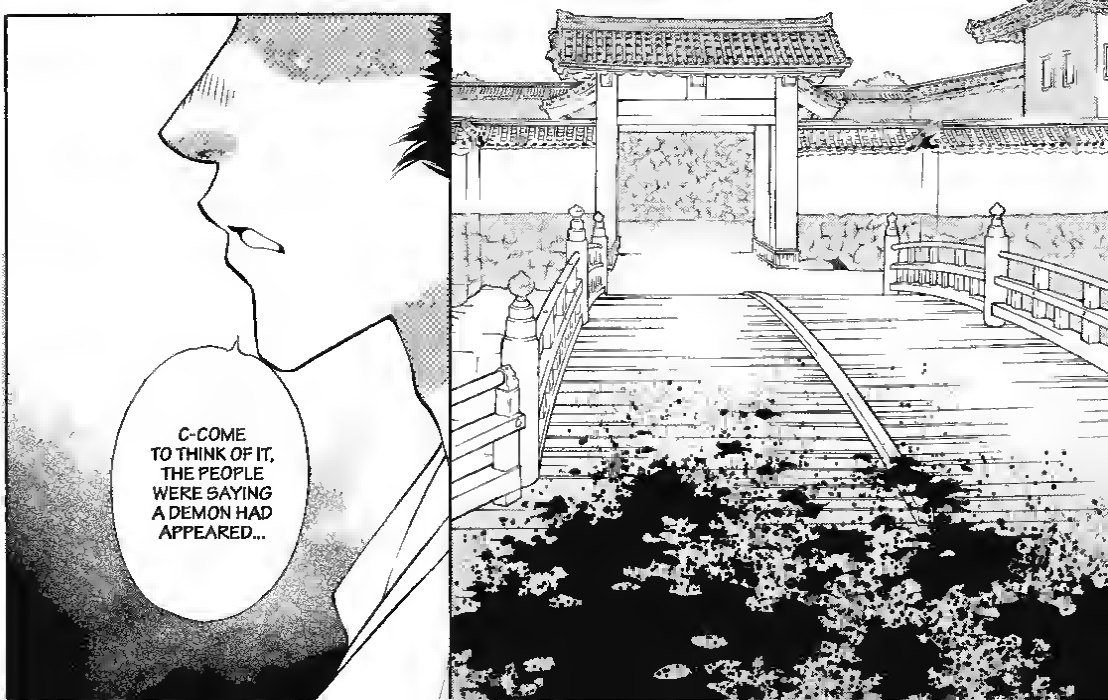
IF YOU COME ANY CLOSER TO BECOMING A DEMON, I'LL KILL YOU WITH ONIKIRIMARU.


IS THIS A DREAM? IS IT REAL?

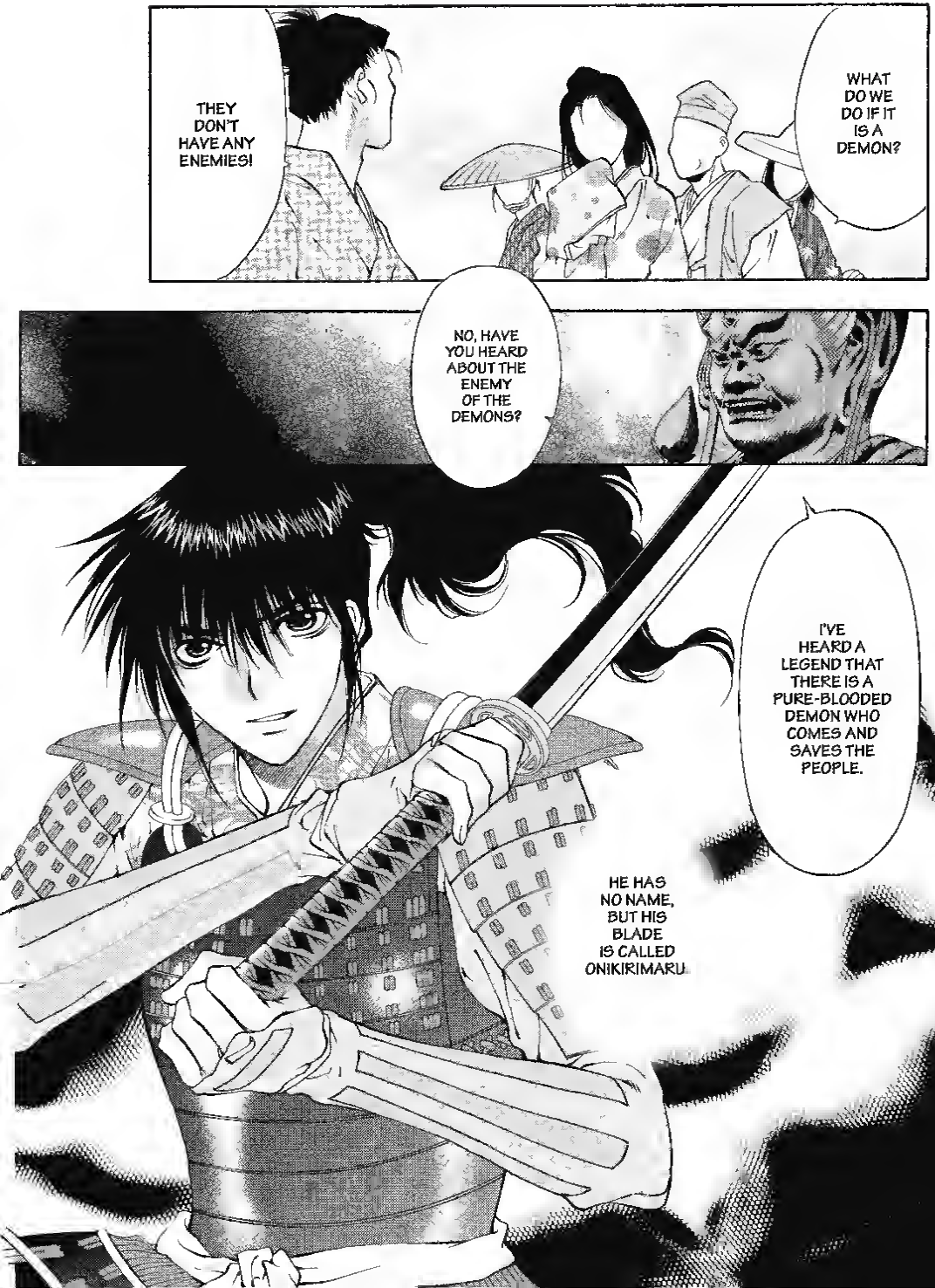
TWITCH
AND WHAT IS ONIKIRIMARU?

AM I ALIVE BECAUSE MY UNCLE STILL HAS SOME LOVE FOR ME?
IT'S MORNING...?
SLIP
LORD HIDE-TSUGU!
AAH!
W-WHAT IS THIS BLOOD?

THERE ARE TERRIBLE CHUNKS OF FLESH OUTSIDE THE CASTLE...
...SO BADLY MUTILATED THAT WE DON'T KNOW IF THEY'RE MAN OR BEAST!


C-COME TO THINK OF IT, THE PEOPLE WERE SAYING A DEMON HAD APPEARED...

THE BODIES OF MANY DEER WERE FOUND TORN APART ON MT. HIEI, WHERE KILLING IS FORBIDDEN
HOW TERRIFYING...
I'VE ALSO HEARD THAT MANY HAVE GONE MISSING...
IS ALL THAT BLOOD THEIRS?
NO HUMAN COULD HAVE DONE THAT. IT MUST BE A DEMON!
IT'S MY UNCLE! MY UNCLE MUST HAVE TURNED INTO A DEMON AND DONE IT!


THEY DON'T HAVE ANY ENEMIES!
WHAT DO WE DO IF IT IS A DEMON?
NO, HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE ENEMY OF THE DEMONS?
I'VE HEARD A LEGEND THAT THERE IS A PURE-BLOODED DEMON WHO COMES AND SAVES THE PEOPLE.
HE HAS NO NAME, BUT HIS BLADE IS CALLED ONIKIRIMARU.

ONIKIRIMARU...
THAT'S RIGHT, I HEARD THIS ONCE IN A BEDTIME STORY.
ONIKIRIMARU IS THE MORTAL ENEMY OF THE DEMONS.
SO PERHAPS THAT DREAM WAS SOME SORT OF HOLY MESSAGE!
ONIKIRIMARU WILL SLAY THE DEMON... SLAY MY UNCLE!
IT WILL KILL THAT MONSTER WHO WOULD SLAY HIS OWN NEPHEW!

WHAT? I'M A MURDERER?
LORD HIDEYOSHI ORDERS THAT YOU BE STRIPPED OF YOUR ROLE AS ADVISER AND BANISHED TO MT. KOUYA IMMEDIATELY.
MASHITA NAGAMORI
THE PEOPLE CALL YOU THE MURDEROUS ADVISER.
MAEDA GEN'I
THAT'S RIGHT. THE WAY YOU KILL PEOPLE AND BEASTS AT RANDOM IS TRULY THE WORK OF A DEMON.
ISHIDA MITSUNARI

IS THAT WHY HE KILLED THE TOWNSPEOPLE INSTEAD OF ME?
DID MY UNCLE ENTRAP ME BY BLAMING ME FOR ALL THE DEEDS THIS DEMON IS RUMORED TO HAVE DONE?
NO, LORD HIDETSUGU! I HOPE YOU CAN SEE THIS AS HIS KINDNESS!
HE WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO KILL HIS NEPHEW, WHO HE ADOPTED AS HIS OWN SON!
HE'S STRIPPING YOU OF YOUR LAND AND RANK, BUT BY SENDING YOU TO A TEMPLE, HE IS SAVING YOUR LIFE!

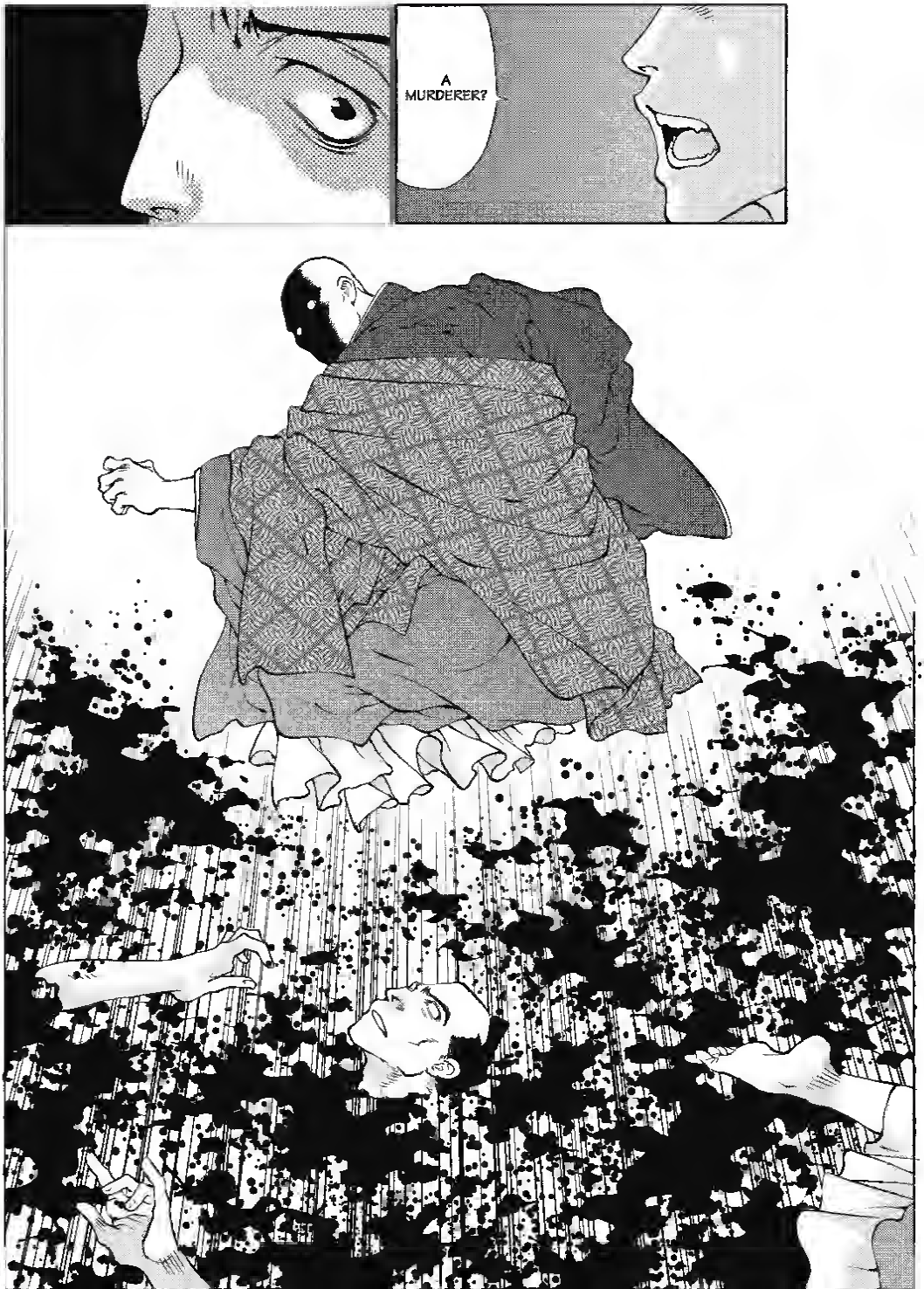
IN OTHER WORDS... THIS IS HIS HUMAN KINDNESS?
がくっ
RUSTLE
MT. KOUYA

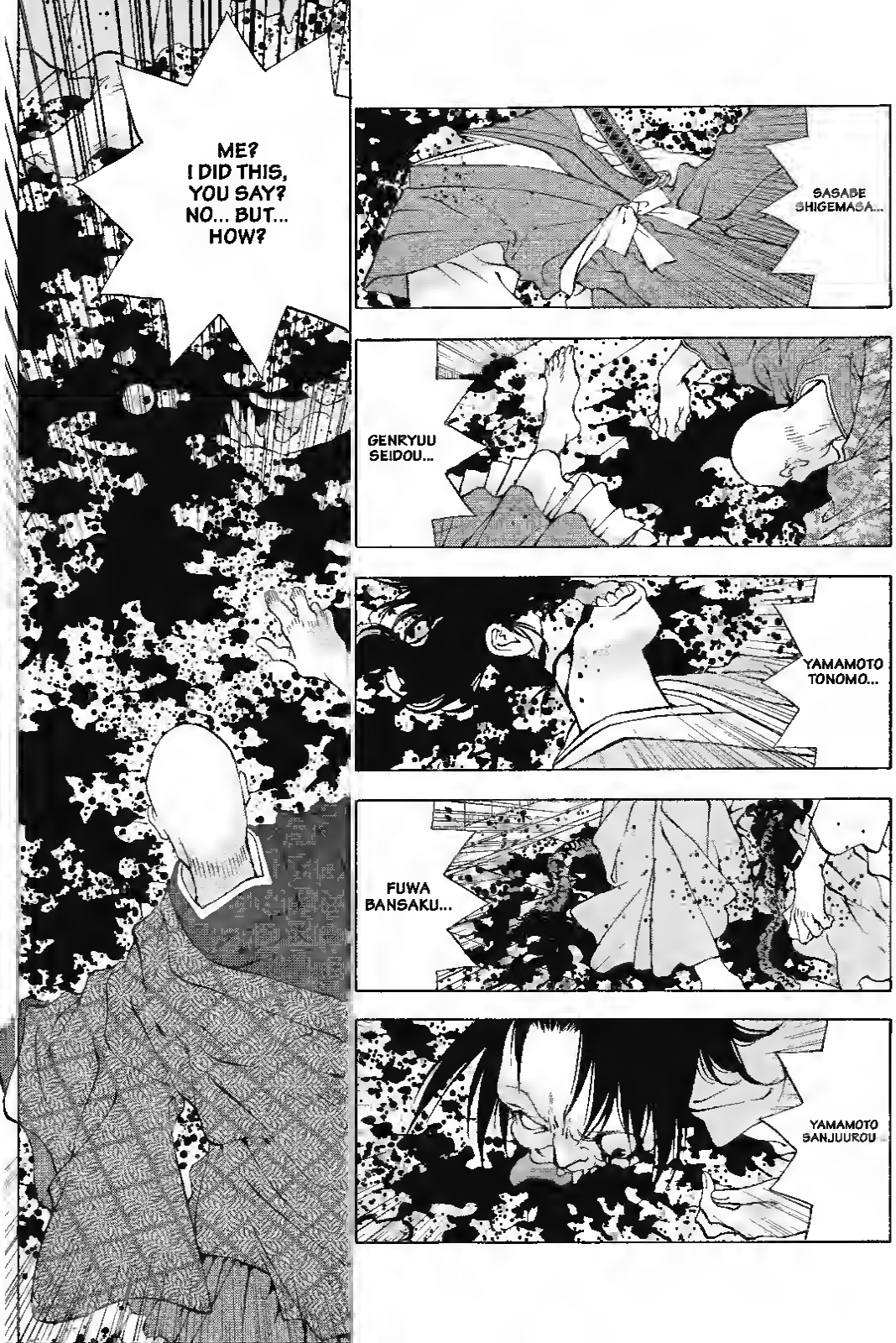
HE GAVE ME EVERYTHING, THEN SNATCHED IT ALL AWAY, AND NOW HE WANTS ME TO THANK HIM?
BE GRATEFUL?
GRRR
DAMN YOU!
DAMN YOU!
DAMN YOU! DAMN YOU!

*HIDETSUGU'S NAME AFTER HE BECAME A MONK.

THEN I'LL KILL YOUR BELOVED SON!
THEN HIDETSUGU... COMMIT SEPPUKU RIGHT NOW.
WHO ARE YOU?
MESSENGER WHO HAS COME WITH AN ORDER FROM MY UNCLE?

CURSE YOU, DEMON! MONSTER! MY UNCLE IS THE TRUE DEMON!
DOES HE TELL ME TO COMMIT SEPPUKU NOW THAT I'VE BECOME A MONK? HERE ON MT. KOUYA WHERE ALL KILLING IS FORBIDDEN?
YOU'RE STILL JUST A MURDERER—YOU HAVEN'T EATEN ANYONE.
COMMIT SEPPUKU NOW SO YOU CAN DIE A SAMURAI AND A HUMAN.
I ABANDONED THE NAME OF TOYOTOMI AND QUIETLY BECAME A MONK, AND THIS IS HOW HE TREATS ME?

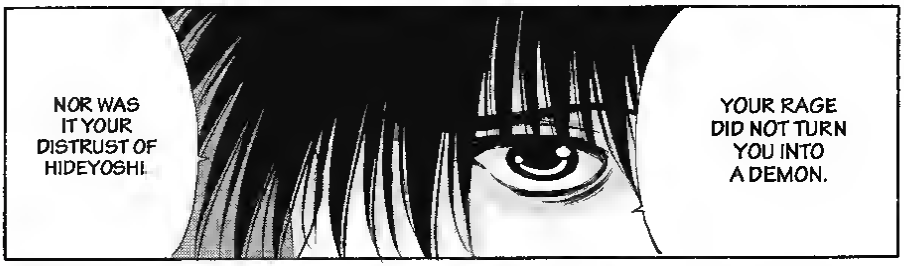

A MURDERER?

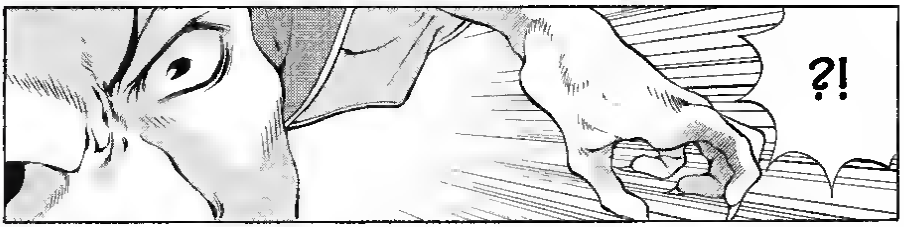

ME?
I DID THIS,
YOU SAY?
NO... BUT...
HOW?
SASABE SHIGEMASA...
GENRYUU SEIDOU...
YAMAMOTO TONOMO...
FUWA BANSAKU...
YAMAMOTO SANJUUROU

LOOK AT YOURSELF, REFLECTED IN THE POOL OF BLOOD.
LOOK, DEMON.

AAAAH!
うおおおお

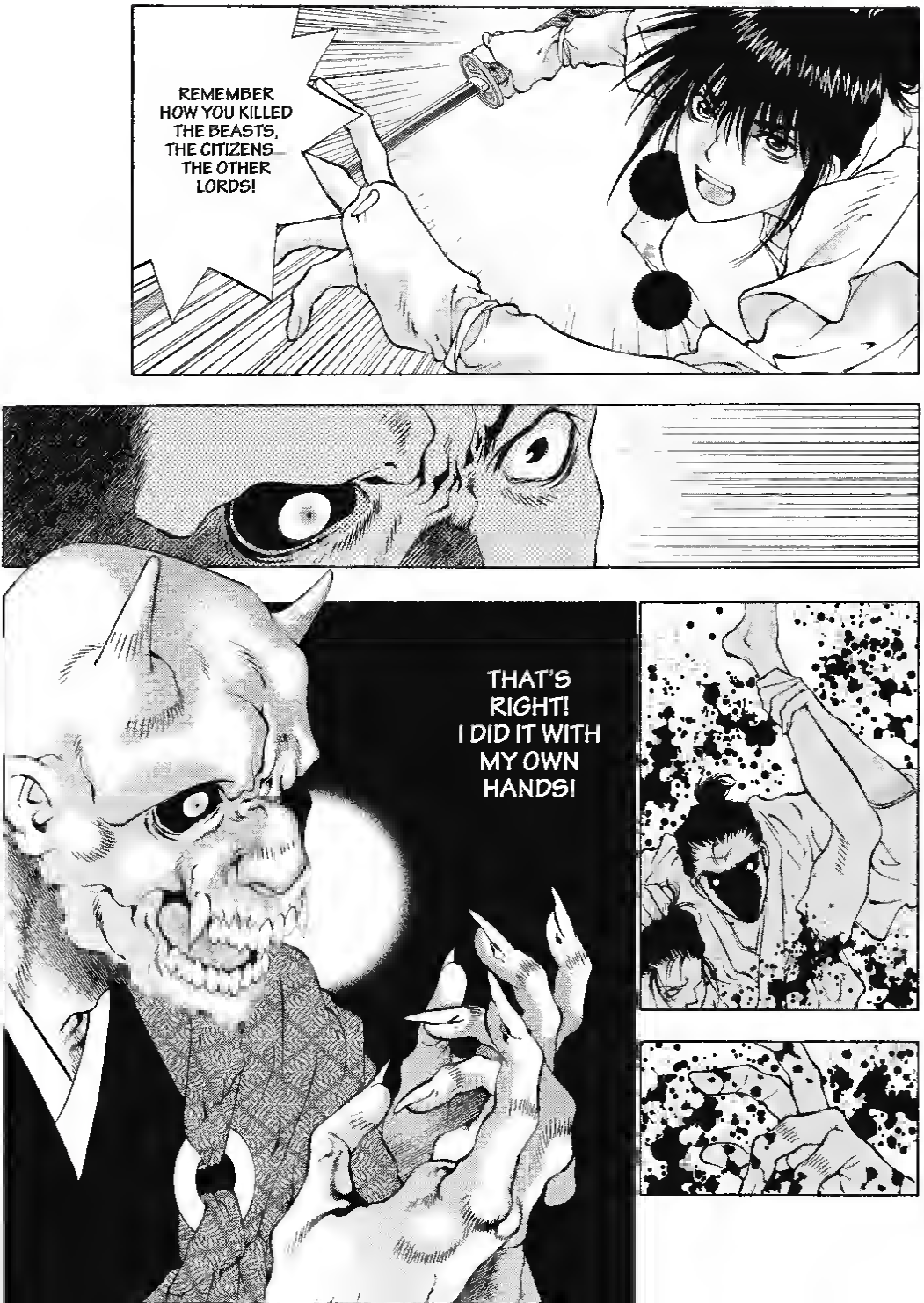
NO, THAT'S NOT TRUE, HIDETSUGU!
THIS IS MY UNCLE'S FAULT! HOW DARE HE TURN ME INTO THIS THING!
SHING


NOR WAS IT YOUR DISTRUST OF HIDEYOSHI.
YOUR RAGE DID NOT TURN YOU INTO A DEMON.


?!

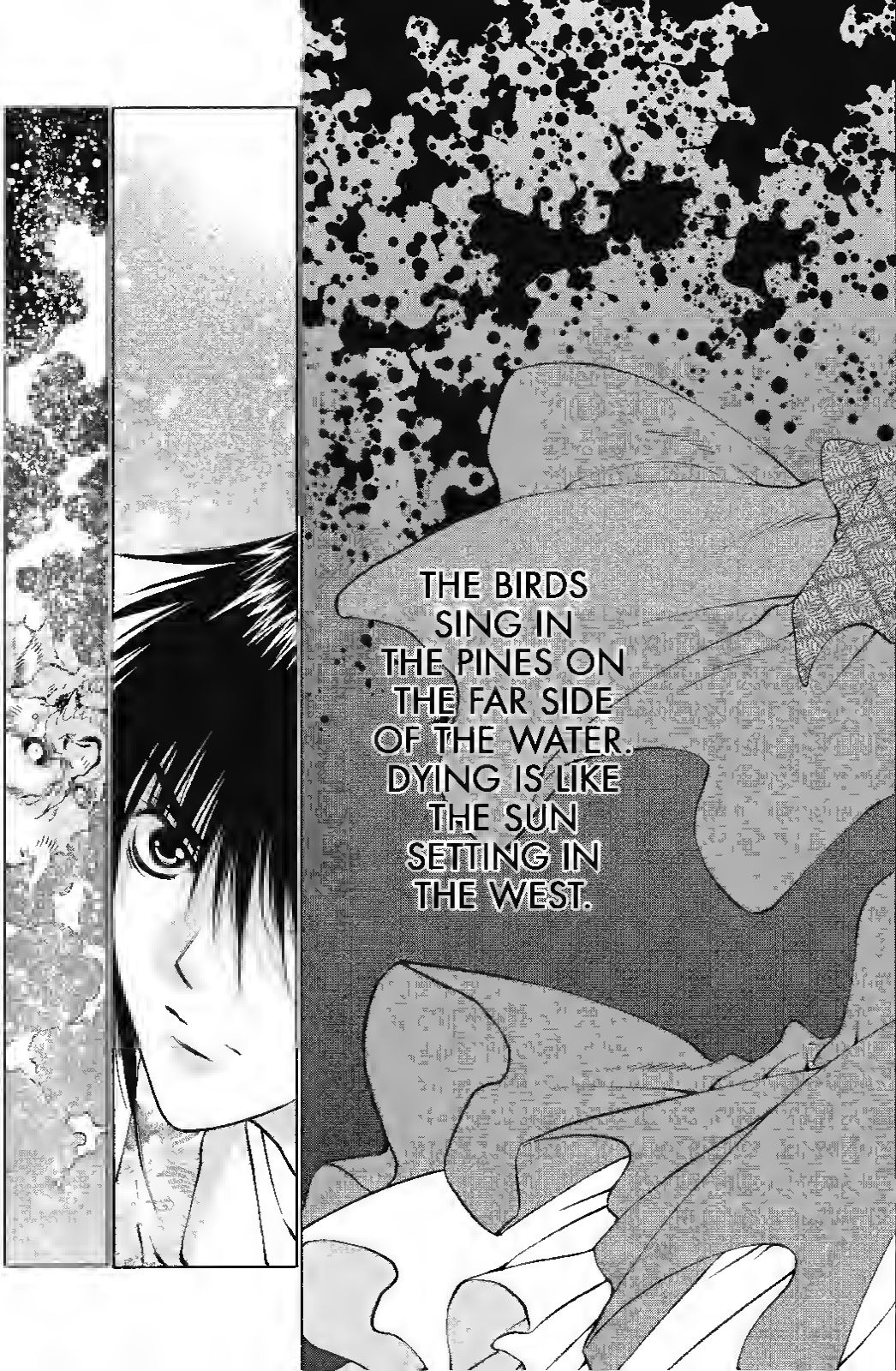
IT WAS WHEN YOU SOUGHT TO KILL THE INNOCENT YOUNG HIROI. THAT'S WHEN YOU BECAME A DEMON.

HOW I HATE YOU, MY COUSIN. YOU'RE IN MY WAY. IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU...
THE WAY YOU SOUGHT TO KILL YOUR OWN COUSIN... IT WAS TRULY THE BEHAVIOR OF A DEMON.
THE DEMON IN MY DREAM... WAS ME?


REMEMBER HOW YOU KILLED THE BEASTS, THE CITIZENS THE OTHER LORDS!
THAT'S RIGHT! I DID IT WITH MY OWN HANDS!

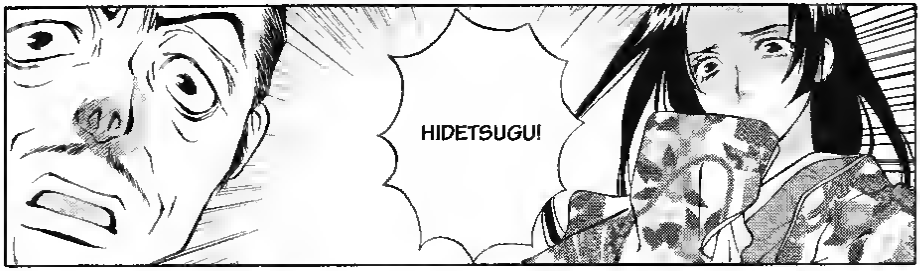
IT WAS MY UNCLE WHO WANTED TO KILL ME!
NO! NO! IT'S NOT TRUE!
I WON'T LET YOU, HIDETSUGU!
SWISH
HE'S THE DEMON! I'LL DEVOUR HIM AND HIS CHILD!
ARE YOU THE ONE FROM MY DREAM?
WHO ARE YOU?

NO NO NO NO NO NO NO
KILL KILL KILL KILL HATE RAGE EAT BLOOD FLESH KILL EAT EAT
YOU ARE NO LONGER A HUMAN, YOU ARE A DEMON, AND I WILL SLAY YOU WITH ONIKIRIMARU!
YES, THAT'S RIGHT! I AM A NAMELESS, PURE-BLOODED DEMON, AND THE DEMONS' ONE MORTAL FOE!

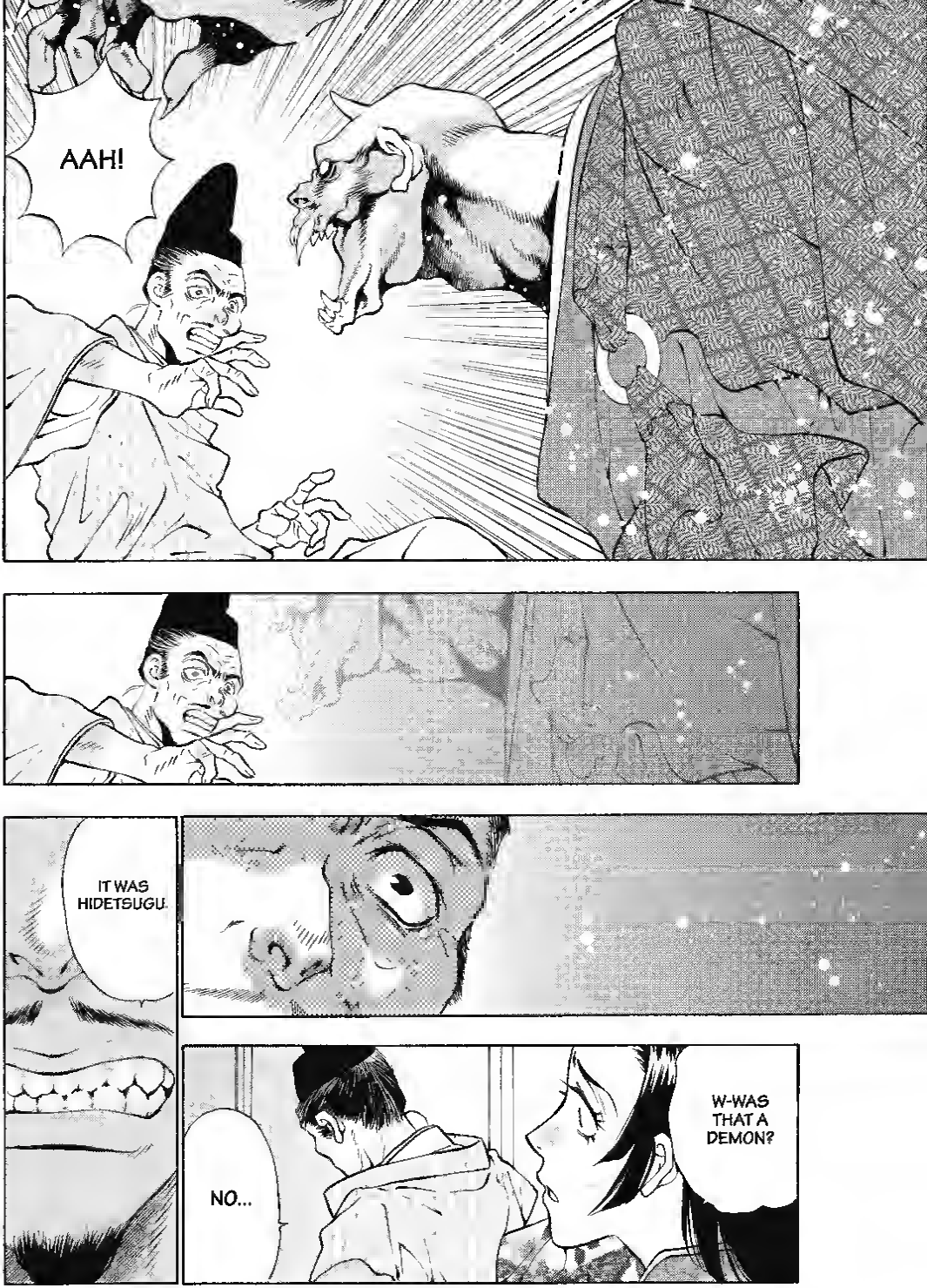

THE BIRDS SING IN THE PINES ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE WATER. DYING IS LIKE THE SUN SETTING IN THE WEST.

FUKUMI CASTLE
WAS HIDETSUGU TRULY A MURDERER?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, MY LORD?
HIS EYES! THEY WERE THE EYES OF A DEMON! HE WAS PLANNING TO KILL HIRO!!
.....

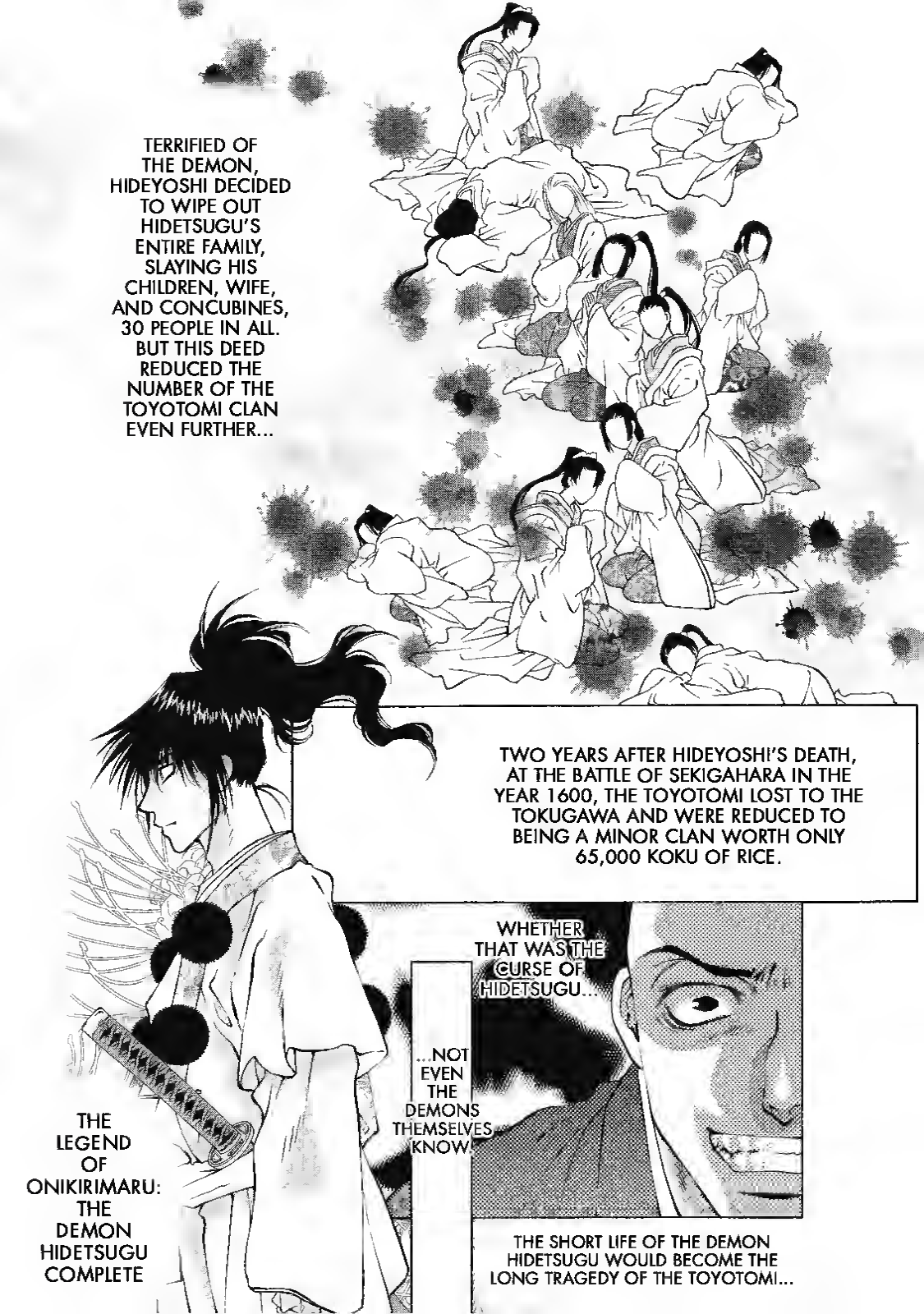
BOOM


HIDETSUGU!

HOW DARE YOU, UNCLE!


AAH!
IT WAS HIDETSUGU.
W-WAS THAT A DEMON?
NO...

SO HAVE HIM COMMIT SEPPUKU, AND PUT HIS HEAD ON DISPLAY FOR ALL TO SEE! SLAY HIS FAMILY AND HIS WOMEN TOO!
HE WASN'T JUST A MURDERER, HE BECAME A DEMON!
KILL THE FAMILY OF THE DEMON! ALL OF THEM!
MY LORD...
M-MY...
NO ONE EVER SAW HIDETSUGU AFTER THAT...


TERRIFIED OF THE DEMON, HIDEYOSHI DECIDED TO WIPE OUT HIDETSUGU'S ENTIRE FAMILY, SLAYING HIS CHILDREN, WIFE, AND CONCUBINES, 30 PEOPLE IN ALL. BUT THIS DEED REDUCED THE NUMBER OF THE TOYOTOMI CLAN EVEN FURTHER...
TWO YEARS AFTER HIDEYOSHI'S DEATH, AT THE BATTLE OF SEKIGAHARA IN THE YEAR 1600, THE TOYOTOMI LOST TO THE TOKUGAWA AND WERE REDUCED TO BEING A MINOR CLAN WORTH ONLY 65,000 KOKU OF RICE.
WHETHER THAT WAS THE CURSE OF HIDETSUGU...
...NOT EVEN THE DEMONS THEMSELVES KNOW.
THE LEGEND OF ONIKIRIMARU: THE DEMON HIDETSUGU COMPLETE
THE SHORT LIFE OF THE DEMON HIDETSUGU WOULD BECOME THE LONG TRAGEDY OF THE TOYOTOMI...